

1-35 Armor

...blasts away

A 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment tank fires away during an exercise at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, July 2000.

1st Armored Division
in action series

Photo by Spc. Amanda Domaszek, 1st Armored Division PAO

1st Armored Division

IRONSIDE

America's Tank Division

4-1 FA Gunnery

1-94 FA (MLRS) certification

Dual-military households

August -
September
2001

Welcome
Major General Sanchez

August-2001 September

1-94 FA (MLRS) certification Racquetball Division Change of Command 4-1 FA Gunnery Dual military households



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501st MI Battalion marches colors to new home

Capt. Thomas Finch, Company D commander, and 1st Sgt. Dale McDonald, Company D first sergeant, pass the 501st Military Intelligence Battalion colors and saber to Capt. Carey Luse, Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, and 1st Sgt. Gerardus Wykoff, Headquarters and Headquarters Company first sergeant, for the final leg of the battalion's colors march, from Dexheim to their new home at McCully Barracks in Wackernheim, Germany.

Cover: Soldiers from 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, aren't sandbagging as they load a red bag charge during a training exercise at Fort Riley, Kan, in July. Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez receives the colors and command of the 1st Armored Division, from Lt. Gen. James C. Riley, V Corps commander, during a ceremony at Wiesbaden Army Air Field.



Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez

Iron Soldiers! My family and I are ecstatic about rejoining the Iron team. It is an honor to be your division commander. I look forward to soldiering and meeting with each of you. Our top priority will be to continue to build upon the tremendous successes of our predecessors as we work together to keep the 1st Armored Division a competent and professional warfighting team. Over the past two years, I have watched the remarkable exploits of Old Ironsides - in Kosovo, during the Warfighter in March, and in a very complicated and emotional move to Wiesbaden. In every case, the soldiers and leaders accomplished the mission with distinction and pride. The exceptionally high standards demonstrated during those tough missions have come to characterize America's Tank Division. What a great team! Again, I am very glad to be here.

The opportunity to lead America's sons and daughters who are assigned to the last remaining active tank division in the Army is humbling and a challenge that can only be met by teamwork. Teamwork is a necessary ingredient for everything that we do as soldiers. Every leader must ensure that our soldiers are prepared to fight and win on any battlefield, anytime, under any conditions - that is what America expects of us. Warfighting readiness must be our top priority. Every Iron soldier must be trained for the mission we will expect him to perform in combat - No soldier will go into harm's way without the proper training. Our collective training will be focused on the decisive tasks that will make us successful on the battlefield, and it will be tough. Platoons and companies win battles - that's where we will focus our collective training efforts. Our training does not need to be fancy or complicated, but everything we do should focus on warfighting fundamentals and training those decisive tasks to the point where they are instinctive.

Making subordinates successful is every leader's responsibility. Training junior leaders who can replace us in combat must be the essence of our leader development programs. We must allow our subordinates to learn from the tough training opportunities that we provide for them. Underwrite mistakes made in training and allow our junior leaders to grow. Providing the resources necessary to accomplish any mission assigned is the responsibility of commanders. Don't set yourself up for failure by failing in this

responsibility.

The coming months will require significant sacrifices by our soldiers and their families as we execute our training strategy and as we prepare Old Ironsides units for operational deployments. Every soldier and his family must recognize that deployments are a way of life in this theater and must plan accordingly. Family readiness is crucial to our overall readiness and every one of us has a role in being prepared to deploy on a moment's notice. I am committed to continuing the great Family Well-Being initiatives that are present in our communities, and I will work for continued improvement. Don't neglect this component of our business.

The warrior profession that we have chosen, for whatever length of time, requires demanding, tough, dirty, satisfying work. Being a soldier means accepting an institutional value system that has evolved over time and is necessary if we are to succeed in combat. The standards that we impose on ourselves are higher than any other profession. Know those values and live by them.

In summary, conducting tough, focused training, developing leaders, taking care of families and having soldiers and units that live by the Army's values are what will make each and every one of us individually and collectively successful. In the end, if called upon to defend our national interests, Old Ironsides will be better trained and prepared to fight and win against any adversary.

See you on the high ground.

Iron Soldiers! Dignity and Respect!



Photo courtesy of Capt. Scott D. Applegate

Sgt. Joseph Martin, an MLRS crew member with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, fires an MK-19 grenade launcher down range as 1st Lt. Joshua Pritchett, a Battery B platoon leader, looks on during one of the early phases of the Operation Deep Forge exercise.

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Rockets blazing into the sky above is not an unusual sight at the Grafenwoehr Training Center, Germany. But the ones fired April 17 through May 7, during Operation Deep Forge held special significance as they signaled the final step in the process of certifying the 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment (Multiple Launch Rocket System), as a battle-ready unit.

“The unit was formed last July and activated Sept. 15,” said 1st Lt.

Michael J. Pelkey, assistant S-3 for the 1-94 FA (MLRS). “Since then we have been doing a variety of exercises and training to prepare us for this operation. The exercise went very well. We really kicked some butt. All of the commanders were really pleased. We completed all of our goals and then some. Most of the battalion had done this kind of stuff before, but this was the first time they did it all

“The soldiers were anxious to get out there to show what they could do. Now that we have been certified operational, we are the second largest [source of fire-power] in the 1st Armored Division.”

1st Lt. Michael J. Pelkey
Assistant S-3 for 1-94 FA (MLRS)

together at the same time.”

Most of the training leading up to the exercise and the earlier stages of the exercise itself were geared toward getting the smaller units within the battalion prepared and certified on their own separate roles within the battalion. They conducted individual and crew-served weapons ranges and table exercises designed to prepare each soldier for every kind of mission they could face as part of a battle-ready unit. Soldiers fired M-16A2 rifles, M-2 machine guns, and MK-19 grenade launchers during the exercises.

“The soldiers got to go to a new training area that they had not been to before,” said Staff Sgt. William J. Olenick, positioning azimuth determining system team chief. “They got to do more training and training on a larger scale than they had ever done. Before this exercise, most of the batteries pretty much just worked alone. This exercise had them meshed together. It showed them how all the pieces fit and work together in a wartime effort.”

The earlier, smaller-scaled

exercises during the operation were designed to train and prepare the soldiers for the final graded live-fire portion of the exercise. The soldiers trained on everything from joint-unit raid strategies to operational vehicle decontamination. The battalion scored the highest fire mission percentage in U.S. Army, Europe, completing 89 percent of the missions they went on, according to Pelkey.

“The soldiers were anxious to get out there to show what they

could do,” said Pelkey. “Now that we have been certified operational, we are the second largest [source of fire-power] in the 1st Armored Division.”

A lot of the soldiers had been looking forward to the live-fire exercise for a long time, according to Pfc. Ervin E. Beisch, an MLRS crew member with Battery B, 1-94 FA (MLRS).

“This was my first live-fire exercise,” said Beisch. “It was exciting and exhilarating. It was a real rush to finally fire actual live rockets. More than anything else, I think this exer-

cise was a real confidence boost. We did everything we set out to do, and we did it well. I am really looking forward to our next mission or exercise so we can do it again and maybe even do it better.”

The significance of the rocket launchers’ effectiveness was not lost on the soldiers.

“We are now combat ready,” said Olenick. “We are prepared for any mission we might face in the future. We are ready to do our part for the 1st Armored Division.”



Photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st. Class Thomas Miller

A 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, Multiple Launch Rocket System, known as a “Gridsmasher,” launches a rocket into the Grafenwoehr sky during the live-fire portion of the Operation Deep Forge Exercise. The system earned the nickname for its ability to take out a 1,000-square-meter grid.

Operation 1-94FA battle ready
Deep Forge certifies

Story by Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni, 1st Armored Division PAO

Maj. Gen. Sanchez

assumes command of 1AD

Story by Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni, 1st Armored Division PAO



Photo by Spc. Roderick A. Berry

Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez receives the colors and command of the 1st Armored Division from Lt. Gen. James C. Riley, V Corps commander. The ceremony was the first major event hosted by the division at its new headquarters, July 10.

WIESBADEN, Germany – With the sun shining bright, artillery cannons rendering honors and “Auf Wiedersehen,” and the “Iron Soldiers March” echoing through the crowd of more than 250, Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez assumed command of the 1st Armored Division from Maj. Gen. George W. Casey Jr., during a ceremony at Wiesbaden Army Air Field, July 10.

The ceremony was the first major event hosted by the division at its new headquarters. Army leaders from throughout Germany attended the ceremony along with German dignitaries from Bad Kreuznach and Wiesbaden. In assuming command, Sanchez stressed his commitment to his soldiers.

“Iron Soldiers, I am totally committed to making you successful and to taking care of soldiers and their families,” said Sanchez. “Together, we will sustain the values, the training excellence and the focus on people and warfighting that has created this great Army and, more specifically, this great division.”

The ceremony marked the end of Casey’s two-year command. During his tenure, two brigades deployed to Kosovo and the division participated in several major exercises.

“Troops, it is time for this old infantryman to go and figure out how to be a joint warfighter,”

said Casey. “It has been my great honor to be an Iron Soldier. It has been my greatest privilege to lead you.”

Casey’s next assignment is commander of the Joint Warfighting Center in Suffolk, Va.

Sanchez came to the division from Headquarters, U. S. Army, Europe, where he served as the deputy chief of staff for operations. He previously served as the assistant division commander for support for the 1st Infantry Division and commander of Task Force Falcon from December 1999 through June 2000.

Sanchez was the Distinguished Military Graduate of Texas A&I University, Kingsville, Texas. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1973.

Sanchez holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and history from Texas A&I University and a Master of Science degree in operations research and systems analysis engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School.

During the ceremony, the new division commander said he was thankful for the opportunity to command.

“Anytime a soldier is given the responsibilities of command, he rejoices,” said Sanchez. “To the Army leadership, and specifically Gen. [Montgomery] Meigs and Lt. Gen. [James] Riley, thank you for the vote of confidence and the opportunity to lead America’s Tank

Division and America’s sons and daughters.”

Sanchez is not a stranger to the 1st Armored Division, having previously commanded the division’s 3rd Brigade at Fort Riley, Kansas. At the ceremony, Riley welcomed Sanchez back to the division.

“[Sanchez] is an experienced leader and a great trainer,” said Riley. “He is a skilled warrior with tremendous experience at the joint- and combined-service level and as a commander of Task Force Falcon in Kosovo. Welcome back to the Victory Corps, to the ‘Old Ironsides’ and to a great community. We are proud to have you.”

In his speech, Sanchez discussed his outlook on the division’s future.

“As we look into the future, our challenge will be to sustain the standards of excellence set by Maj. Gen. Casey in training, operational execution and taking care of soldiers,” Sanchez said. “Maintaining our high-intensity conflict warfighting readiness will be our top priority. We must never lose sight of why we exist – to be able to immediately deploy and fight anywhere, anytime, across the spectrum of conflict.”

In assuming command, Sanchez became the 46th division commander.



Photo by Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni

The reviewing party, Maj. Gen. George W. Casey Jr., outgoing IAD commanding general; Lt. Gen. James C. Riley, V Corps commander; Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, incoming IAD commanding general; and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Bush, IAD Command Sergeant Major, inspect the troops during the change of command ceremony.

1AD NCO All-Armed Forces Racquetball Championship



Miguel A. Santiago coaches his grandson Miguel "Mikey" Santiago on the fundamentals of racquet positioning and focusing his eyes on the ball. Miguel, who recently won the All-Armed Forces Racquetball Tournament, has two daughters and a son that play racquetball.

Story and photos by
Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni
1st Armored Division PAO

WIESBADEN, Germany – Miguel A. Santiago sends the blue rubber ball soaring through the air like it was fired out of the main gun of an Abrams tank. His target is the white brick wall ahead. His shot ricochets off the wall and comes screaming straight back to him. He cocks his arm up and fires the ball right back to the wall where it hits no more than two feet away from his last shot.

Santiago, the top-ranked military racquetball player in Europe, repeats this routine over and over again until he hits the same shot five times in a row and moves on to another shot. He goes through this practice regimen on a daily basis, hoping that practice will indeed

make perfect.

Santiago, operations sergeant for the 1st Armored Division Chemical section, won the All-Armed Forces Racquetball Tournament and made it all the way to the quarterfinals in the U.S. National Championship Tournament in May. He has played in three World Championships, medaling in all three. His wife, Belinda, who also works for the division as the G-1 secretary, says the biggest reason for his success is his consistency and his dedication to practicing.

"It is all about his determination," said Belinda, who, along with their children, goes to all of his tournaments and most of his practices. "He goes to the court to play or to practice every single day. If he cannot find someone to play, he plays alone [performing his practice routine]. Even at the smaller tournaments, where

everybody knows he is going to win, we cheer him on as enthusiastically as if he was playing in the Olympics."

According to Miguel, while he prefers to play people who are of the same ability level, he will step on the court with just about anybody. He does his normal physical training in the morning and plays racquetball usually from 6 to 8 p.m. almost every night. Every once in a while, people show up at the gym just to play him.

"I play for the workout," said Miguel. "I do whatever I have to do no matter who I am playing against. I can work on my shots with anyone. But I obviously prefer to play against people of the same ability. There are a lot of quality players in Germany and in Europe. I try to play in as many tournaments as I can."

Adrian Benavides has played Miguel a couple times over the last four months. According to Benavides, during that time his skills have improved as he has tried to apply some of the same strategies he has seen Miguel use.

"I have learned a lot just by playing and watching him play," said Benavides. "He usually tries to beat you with three hits. He serves it to your backhand. Then he watches how you return the ball and positions himself accordingly. Then on the third shot, he goes for the kill shot by hitting the ball low enough so that when it comes off the back wall it is rolling on the floor, making it impossible to return. Even though I have gotten better using that strategy, the most points I have ever scored on him in a game is about 11, playing to 15."

According to Miguel, there is one

piece of equipment that is the most essential to a good racquetball player.

"Shoes are the most important piece of equipment you can buy," said Miguel. "I prefer a good court shoe with solid ankle support and cushioning. There is a lot of lateral movement and stop and starting involved in racquetball. You can really hurt yourself if you do not wear proper shoes. If you do not take care of your feet, they will not take care of you. Besides that, racquetball takes time. You just have to be dedicated enough to practice, practice and practice some more."

While Miguel is currently the top-ranked military player in Europe, somewhere down the line he might not even be the best player in his own family. His family has traveled with him to tournaments for as long as they can remember. So it came as no surprise when they all started playing, also.

"When we were back in the States, we used to go to tournaments all over the place," said Belinda. "Some of those tournaments lasted until 11:30 at night, or later. But we would never have missed it. The kids just love watching him play that much. That is what got them all playing. We have two 15-year-old daughters [from previous marriages] and an 11-year-old son, as well as one 4-year-old grandson that play now. Our son, Steven, has picked it up the quickest. When we were stationed in Bad Kreuznach, he was always at the gym challenging soldiers who were twice his age and three times his size to play. He beat this one first sergeant once, but [the first sergeant] made him promise not to

tell his name to anyone because he did not want his soldiers to find out."

While Miguel never pressured any of his family to play racquetball, now that they have started playing, he coaches them even though he never received any formal coaching himself.

He started playing for fun when he was stationed in Korea, 17 years ago, and started competing a couple of years later. According to Miguel, he got better just by watching other people play and by diligently practicing all of his shots.

He is no stranger to coaching, having coached the Puerto Rican National Racquetball Team to a bronze medal at the '99 Pan-American Games in Canada. Miguel had played for the team for five years before being offered the opportunity to coach. He said he would like to make the team as a player for the next games.

"When he trains and coaches me, he is very serious," said Belinda. "He does not take it easy on me just because I am his wife. He is a little bit easier on the kids, but not much. He does have more patience with our grandson, Mikey."

Miguel "Mikey" Santiago, 4, is not much taller than his racquet. But he can



Miguel A. Santiago's practice routine consists of hitting each shot over and over again until he hits the same spot five times in a row.

hit the ball consistently with a one-handed forehand swing.

"My husband keeps telling me, if he keeps on playing and improving like he has, he is going to be an incredible player, maybe even the best in the family," said Belinda.

Miguel, 42, wants to keep competing as long as he can and to keep coaching after that. He plans to compete in the Central American Games in the Dominican Republic and the World Championships in Puerto Rico next year.

He said he will continue to support and coach his family as their racquetball abilities continue to grow and catch up to his own. He regularly reminds them of what it takes to become a good racquetball player.

"I have dedicated many, many hours of practice towards getting myself to this level," said Miguel. "Racquetball is like most other individual sports. The only way to get better is to make the time to practice."

1AD welcomes new leaders

America's Tank Division



(Top Left): Col. John D. Johnson receives the colors and command of the 1st Armored Division's 2nd Brigade from Maj. Gen. George W. Casey Jr., former 1AD commanding general, June 12. Johnson previously served as the operations officer for V Corps. Photo by Sgt. Gregory F. Withrow

(Top Center): Maj. Gen. George W. Casey Jr., addresses the German and American dignitaries and guests in attendance, as Col. David L. Lawrence, incoming 4th Brigade commander, and Col. Mark S. Landrith, outgoing 4th Brigade commander, look on during the brigade change-of-command ceremony, June 15. Lawrence previously served as the U.S. Army, Europe, Aviation Officer and Branch Chief at the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations-Aviation. Photo courtesy of Karl Weisel

(Top Right): Newly arrived and soon-to-depart 1AD leaders salute during the division's welcome and farewell ceremony, July 13. More than 200 1AD soldiers and guests gathered to bid farewell to the departing assistant division commander for support, Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy. While assigned to the division, Hardy served as the commander of Task Force Falcon from August to December 2000. The division also welcomed the two new assistant division commanders and the division command sergeant major. (From left to right) Col. Leo A. Brooks Jr., assistant division commander for maneuver, Brig. Gen. Robert L. Decker, assistant division commander for support, Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, division commander, Brig. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, the departing assistant division commander for support, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Bush, division command sergeant major. Photo by Spc. Roderick A. Berry

(Bottom Right): 1AD Division Support Command guidon bearers hold up the DISCOM colors and the American and German flags during the unit's change-of-command, June 22. Col. Kenneth S. Dowd assumed command of the unit from Col. C.S. Vakas. Dowd previously served as the chief of the Logistics Operations Center, Department of the Army deputy chief of staff for logistics in Washington, DC. Photo by Spc. Roderick A. Berry

(Bottom Center): Col. Frank R. Hull receives the colors and command of 1AD Division Artillery, July 17. Hull's predecessor was Lt. Col. David A. Brown. Hull previously commanded 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Carson, Co. Photo by Spc. Roderick A. Berry

(Bottom Left): The reviewing party inspects the troops during the Division Engineer Brigade change-of-command ceremony, June 13. Col. Don C. Young assumed command of the brigade from Col. Jerry T. Mohr. Young's last assignment was at U.S. Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Photo by Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni

Joined in life and service

Army married couples face common

struggles, gain common experiences

Story by Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni, 1st Armored Division PAO



John and Carrie Harryman cut into their wedding cake. The couple, both captains with the 1st Armored Division, met during their officer basic course in Virginia and married July 19, 1997.

WIESBADEN, Germany – She realized she was running behind schedule when she looked at her watch after returning from her morning workout. She jumped in the shower, grabbed a quick bite to eat, threw on a uniform and darted out the door. When she finally got to her office and had a moment to sit down, she noticed that her pants felt a bit baggier than normal. She didn't think she had lost any weight so she wondered why her pants' waistline felt so loose. Finally, she realized what had happened.

She was wearing her husband's battle-dress-uniform pants.

"It was lucky for me that we wear almost the same size," said Pfc. Christina A. Wright, a prescribed load list clerk with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division, motorpool. "However, I still spent the rest

of the day fidgeting with my belt trying to keep my pants from falling down."

So it goes when both the husband and the wife wear the BDU pants in the family. Keeping uniforms straight is one of the many challenges soldiers face when their spouses are fellow soldiers. From the long hours, training exercises and deployments to shining boots, pressing uniforms and performing proper push-ups and sit-ups, they share in each other's joys and labors. But...

"Being married to another soldier is not easy, but I would not have it any other way," said Christina Wright.

Soldiers from the 1st Armored Division stationed in Germany face a difficult decision as soon as they decide to get married. Where do they have the ceremony? Some choose to fly home so that their families can attend. Others

choose to have the ceremony in Germany so their friends and colleagues can attend. Some even do both.

"We had two weddings, one in Germany and one in my hometown in Utah," said Christina Wright. "We obviously had to have our families involved but we really wanted to have a ceremony that involved all our friends in Germany, too. So we had two ceremonies."

Christina Wright said one of her biggest regrets was that they had to have their wedding in Germany on a workday because it was the only time the chapel they wanted was available. Because of that, many of the guests at the wedding had to attend in BDUs.

Pfc. Richard E. Jaramillo, a G-1 personnel services specialist, and his wife Spc. Toni G. Jaramillo, a medical specialist with Company E, 123rd Main Support Battalion, had a different perspective.

"I only wanted to marry the same girl once," said Richard Jaramillo. "Having two ceremonies might have been nice but we were worried that one would have taken away something from the other."

Soldiers stationed overseas face a variety of challenges in their social lives even before they get married. From the decision of whether or not they want to date local nationals to the pressure of a pending assignment change, many times they have to make choices under completely different circumstances than they would normally face if they were not in the Army.

"I don't think I would have felt comfortable marrying a German because of the language and cultural

differences," said Spc. Michael T. Wright, communications chief for the division commander. "Marriage takes a lot of work without adding those factors into it."

"If I had been back in the States I probably would have been more focused on being a teenager than settling down and getting married," said Christina Wright. "If he was not already on orders to go to his next assignment or if we had met outside of the Army, we probably would have dated longer and moved in with each other and spent more time together before we got married. But we have no regrets whatsoever."

On the other hand, the Army income enables couples who feel they are ready to make the step to marry when they otherwise might not be able to.

"We knew we were ready emotionally," said Richard Jaramillo. "But if we had not been in the Army, I would have to say that we would have been too young and we would not have had the financial security to do it."

Married officer couples face many of the same issues as enlisted couples along with some different ones of their own. Capt. Carrie L. Harryman, an administrative law attorney with the 1AD Judge Advocate General's Office, and Capt. John T. Harryman, a trial counsel lawyer with the 1AD JAG office, met during their officer basic course in Charlottesville, Va.

"We were in the same class," said Capt. John Harryman. "Since her maiden name was Horn we were even in the same squad. Through all of our classes we started getting to know each

other pretty well. But we really got to know each other when I was squad leader

during a land navigation exercise and I got us all lost for a couple of hours."



Photo by Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni

Spc. Michael T. Wright, communications chief for the 1AD commanding general, and Pfc. Christina A. Wright, a prescribed load list clerk with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company motorpool, talk about what went on during the day on the way to take the shuttle bus from Bad Kreuznach to Wiesbaden.



Captains Roger and Brooke Maynulet are married in a military ceremony. Since then their jobs have kept them apart for 23 of the 53 months they have been married, but they both say they support and understand their spouse's profession.

Upon graduation, Capt. Carrie Harryman was assigned to Germany while Capt. John Harryman was assigned to the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific. They continued to date and met back up in the States less than a year later to get married. After enrolling in the Army Married Couples Program, they were reunited in Germany a year later. But a month afterwards, they both deployed to Bosnia.

"Unfortunately, six weeks before we deployed, they had changed the policy that would have allowed us to live together while we were down there," said Capt. John Harryman. "So it was not until after we got back from Bosnia, two and a half years after we were married, that we got to live together as a regular married couple."

Working together in the same office has presented the Harrymans some unique opportunities. Shortly after their return from Bosnia, they went together to a training program in the Ukraine where they taught at a peacekeeping training center.

"We talked a lot about what we did in Bosnia," said Carrie Harryman. "It was originally only supposed to be my husband going, but when they heard that we were a

couple, they thought it would be a good idea for us both to go so that we could be an example of what an Army married couple is like. They do not have many females in their [the Ukrainian] Army, so they found us very interesting."

While the Army's Married Couples Program tries to assign couples less than 50 miles apart, the Army makes no promises. Even when couples do get stationed close together, training exercises and missions can place them thousands of miles apart. Capt. Brooke J. Maynulet, battle captain for the 1st Battalion of the 501st Aviation Regiment, and Capt. Roger Maynulet, the S-3 for 1st Brigade, have been married for 53 months. They have been apart for 23 of those months.

"With both of us being in combat arms [units], the most difficult thing is planning family time together," said Roger Maynulet. "I was in Bosnia for seven months then she was in Kosovo for six months. Throughout our careers, it always seems that when one of us is leaving a gunnery or a [National Training Center] rotation with their unit, the other one is going in with theirs. But I've got a wife that understands my job and duty. I am proud of

what she does and what she has accomplished. I even brag about her [physical training] scores to the people I work with."

Inevitably, most couples face the decision of how to balance two careers with having a family. Sometimes that decision involves delaying having a child until later on in their careers. Sometimes it even involves one or both of them getting out of the Army.

"Right now we are both focused on becoming company commanders," said Roger Maynulet. "We are both supporting the other in that regard. For now, we are putting off having a child. You have to give the Army a large chunk of your time. You have to give your spouse a large chunk of your time, as well. Adding a child to that equation at the wrong time can knock things off balance."

The Harrymans had their first child in August. Carrie Harryman has made the decision to get out of the Army.

"She wants to be a stay-at-home mom," said John Harryman. "It is easier for us, as officers, for her to get out because we can live off of a captain's salary where it might not be as feasible for enlisted soldiers."

Army married couples say the key to having a successful marriage is being flexible and working together. From splitting up the household chores to supporting each other's careers, they play vital roles in each other's lives.

While the stress of both spouses going to work in BDUs can be daunting, they usually learn to appreciate the little things.

"Riding the work shuttle bus from Wiesbaden to Bad Kreuznach and back is actually really nice," said Christina Wright. "That is 'our time.' That is one of the few times in the day when we can be alone together and just talk and be a married couple. Sometimes the little things like that can make all the difference."

3rd Brigade preps for NTC

Story and photo by
Sgt. Jeremy Heckler
19th Public Affairs Det.

The 'King of Battle' reigned over Fort Riley's training ranges this week in preparation for a National Training Center rotation in the California desert.

Before reaching that summit as a battalion, batteries from 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, trained in battery-level crew drills to hone their skills in anticipation of Gauntlet.

They will rotate to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin this fall.

"Our training is battery commander-driven," said Capt. Ciceron Soriano, assistant operations officer for 4th Bn., 1st FA. "The commander analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of his battery and looks to improve the trouble areas."

Soriano said that some of the drills the crews are working on include how well they can move from one area to another and the time it takes them to prepare to fire.

"You always want to be able to call up the battalion commander and say we are ready to fire," said Soriano.

"We've been training soldiers on occupation and [NBC] training, as well as survivability," said Sgt. Jason Carthon, crew chief Battery C, 4th Bn., 1st FA.



Pfc. Lamont Lyons, a gunner in Battery B, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, rams home a round during battery-level training. Behind him, Staff Sgt. John McKenzie, fire chief, evaluates Lyons' speed and technique.

"We are working on improving crew drills," said 1st Lt. Dan Dinicoli, fire direction officer for Battery B, 4th Bn., 1st FA. During the course of training, crews rehearsed each action of their battle drills.

Dinicoli said crews practiced casualty evacuation drills as well as emergency fire missions.

Behind the roar of the Paladins, fire direction teams fed information to artillery vehicles, helping them track down the enemy and lead the way.

"We train up on our LCU, a computer which processes fire missions and sends it to the guns," said Pfc. Jesse Fergurgur, Battery B. "Without us, the guns can't fire their mission."

In each Paladin, the crew learned how to work together to send rounds downrange.

"Teamwork is really important," said Viet Do, a gunner in Battery A. "If one guy doesn't load his round in time, it slows me down and it takes me longer to

load my charge and get us ready to fire."

Further down the line, long-range "red bag" charges launched rounds into the artillery impact areas, rattling the countryside.

"Today each battery was given 36 red bag propellant charges which are extended range charges," said Soriano. Soriano said training with these charges is training in preparation for Gauntlet and NTC in which one of their roles will be providing fire suppression.

For the soldiers, it boiled down to the opportunity to put rounds downrange.

"Out here in the field, our main focus is on training," said Do. "In garrison, there are lots of other things that can get us sidetracked. But here it is all about training."

"Every time you go to the field it feels like a refresher course," said Fergurgur. "In garrison, you forget some of the details, but once you come out here, it all comes back to you."